

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A polarizing device useful for polarizing a piezoelectric material
2 having two surfaces in high-temperature gas, the polarizing device comprising:
3 temperature-raising portion for raising the temperature of the
4 piezoelectric material to a temperature required to polarize the piezoelectric
5 material; and

6 a constant-temperature bath having an atmosphere of gas that is kept at
7 the required temperature, the constant-temperature bath incorporating a polarizing
8 portion for polarizing the piezoelectric material while the temperature of the
9 piezoelectric material is kept at the required temperature.

1 2. A polarizing device according to Claim 1, wherein the constant-
2 temperature bath further comprises an aging portion for performing an aging
3 operation on the piezoelectric material that has been polarized by the polarizing
4 portion.

1 3. A polarizing device according to Claim 1, wherein the
2 temperature-raising portion is configured and arranged to heat both surfaces of the
3 piezoelectric material.

1 4. A polarizing device according to Claim 3, wherein the
2 temperature-raising portion includes radiating heating means for heating one of the
3 surfaces of the piezoelectric material by radiation of heat.

1 5. A polarizing device according to Claim 3, wherein the
2 temperature-raising portion includes means for directly heating one of the surfaces
3 of the piezoelectric material.

1 6. A polarizing device according to Claim 1, further comprising:
2 a transport mechanism for transporting the piezoelectric material from
3 the temperature-raising portion to the constant-temperature bath; and
4 a control portion that controls transportation of the transport mechanism.

1 7. A polarizing device according to Claim 6,
2 wherein the control portion controls a time selected from the group
3 consisting of:
4 time for raising the temperature of the piezoelectric material by
5 the temperature-raising portion;
6 time for setting the temperature of the piezoelectric material at a
7 constant temperature inside the constant-temperature bath;
8 time for polarizing the piezoelectric material by the polarizing
9 portion; and
10 time for performing an aging operation, wherein the constant-
11 temperature bath further comprises an aging portion for performing an aging
12 operation on the piezoelectric material that has been polarized by the polarizing
13 portion; and
14 combinations thereof;
15 wherein the control portion controls in order to control the transportation
16 of the transport mechanism based on the above time controlling operations.

1 8. A polarizing device according to Claim 7, wherein the control
2 portion controls the time of each operation so as to be substantially the same.

1 9. A polarizing device according to Claim 6, further comprising a
2 transport jig for receiving the piezoelectric material, the transport mechanism
3 transporting the transport jig.

1 10. A polarizing device according to Claim 9,
2 wherein the transport jig comprises a pallet including a bottom
3 wall, a piezoelectric material holdable recess, and a through hole in the bottom
4 wall; and
5 the temperature-raising portion further comprising means for
6 direct heating including a hot plate, the hot plate including heat transmitting
7 protrusion and a heat transmitting contact surface, the heat transmitting protrusion
8 being configured and arranged to be insertable into the through hole of the pallet
9 and to be contactable through the through hole with a bottom surface of the
10 piezoelectric material when accommodated in the recess, and the heat transmitting
11 contact surface being contactable with a bottom surface of the pallet.

1 11. A method of polarizing a piezoelectric material inside high-
2 temperature gas, the method comprising the steps of:
3 raising the temperature of the piezoelectric material to a temperature
4 required to polarize the piezoelectric material; and
5 polarizing the piezoelectric material by placing the piezoelectric material
6 into an atmosphere of gas the temperature of which is maintained at the required
7 temperature.

1 12. A method of polarizing a piezoelectric material inside high-
2 temperature gas according to Claim 11, further comprising the step:
3 of performing an aging operation on the polarized piezoelectric material
4 in the same atmosphere of gas.

1 13. A polarizing device according to Claim 1, further comprising:
2 a piezoelectric material in the polarizing device.

- 1 14. A polarizing device according to Claim 5, wherein the means for
- 2 direct heating comprises a hot plate, the hot plate including heat transmitting
- 3 protrusions and a heat transmitting contact surface.

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